

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE

APPROPRIATIONS

HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

SMALL BUSINESS

July 1, 2011

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Whitten Building, Room 200A  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I am writing to urge your expeditious approval of the request and supporting data and information submitted by Governor Branstad for designations that will make available assistance for disaster conditions in several Iowa counties bordering the Missouri River. The designations would cover the counties of Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury.

I greatly appreciate your efforts to meet with the agricultural community in the two meetings you held in Iowa recently and your commitment to see first-hand the conditions on the ground. Given the circumstances, it is extremely unlikely that any of the flooded ground will produce any crop this year, and thus federal assistance to repair farm ground, storage structures, conservation practices, livestock facilities, and the like will be an important factor in alleviating losses. A Secretarial disaster designation would ensure important help and relief for farm families and provide the opportunity to be considered for emergency loans and other USDA programs, including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE).

Please expedite review of the Governor's request for Secretarial disaster designations for these counties and approve them with all possible speed. I urge you to make available all federal resources at your disposal to assist farmers in the affected counties.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin  
United States Senator

TH/jnm